Mr. Chairman,
Excellences,
Distinguished delegates,

Romania fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I wish to add a few brief points in national capacity.

Romanian strongly believes that the NPT remains the cornerstone of the disarmament regime and is fully committed to a world without nuclear weapons. This common ultimate goal could be achieved only collectively, in an appropriate progressive process that is respective to the security challenges and commitments of all NPT States Parties and could only happen when the international security environment is encouraging it.

Any effort must be conducted in the framework of the NPT, with the participation of all States Parties, and its real impact on the existing structure of the international security must be carefully evaluated, bearing in mind the need to avoid unrealistic expectations that will damage both the NPT and our shared goal of a nuclear weapons-free world.

Meanwhile, let us continue to shape the necessary mutual trust and confidence among all states to disarm, building on those initiatives that are consensual and
deliver concrete, tangible results that contribute to nuclear disarmament in a process more likely to be successful and sustainable.

We must take stock of the progress achieved so far and be forward-looking. Let us focus on common ground to advance building blocks in our shared goal of a world without nuclear weapons, like progress of the FMCT negotiations, nuclear disarmament verification and the urgent entry into force of the CTBT and the completion of its monitoring system.

It has been a great honor for Romania to preside over the Preparatory Commission of the CTBT in 2016, the year of its 20th anniversary. Last June, ministers and other high officials of the Signatory States met here in Vienna to express support for the entry into force of the Treaty 20 years since it was opened for signature. Once in force, the Treaty would contribute effectively to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security. We have to finish what we started, against the backdrop of more DPRK’s nuclear and ballistic tests in the recent past, and worrying signals about the future.

Mr. Chairman,

The success of the 2017 Preparatory Committee, and ultimately, of the 2020 Review Conference depends on us – the States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. While we should not fear the differences of opinion, we must bear in mind that a positive outcome of our meeting will show true political will in dealing, in a balanced and comprehensive manner, with all the tree pillars of the NPT. This way,
together, we should be able to manage properly a successful beginning of the 2015-2020 review cycle.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you once again of Romania’s commitment to support you in your endeavors to achieve a successful outcome of the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.